

Synopsis of North Mianus Parking Lot Capital Project Funding Overview

By Ben Branyan, School Business Administrator

- I started working in the District in early September 2010.
- According to my files I started working on accounting budget issues related to this project mid-February and completed work around the end of March.
- Fred Durante (the contractor) contacted the First Selectman's Office on or about April 13, 2011 regarding "not being fully compensated for the work "on project.
- PO #11506719 was approved by the Town and paid on 4/15/11 for outstanding amount from the BOE's Operating Budget.

Other comments

- The table below shows the age of the outstanding invoices, as you can see all invoices exceeded six (6) month past the issue date:

Invoice Date	Amount	CO #	Payment Date	Age of Invoice (days)
10/11/2010	\$ 1,352.62	17	4/15/2011	186
9/28/2010	\$ 7,529.66	13	4/15/2011	199
9/28/2010	\$ 28,941.67	12	4/15/2011	199
8/27/2010	\$ 30,942.78	6	4/15/2011	231
TOTAL	\$ 68,766.73			

- In completing a BOE capital account review, several projects were closed out. The impact was "returning" \$128,239 to the Town's capital account fund balance.
- I have attached an email thread regarding this issue.

The following are the general comments (not a transcript) I made at the May BET Committee meeting. I share with you to demonstrate the information I presented but also the tenor of my comments.

Good Evening All,

You have BOE application #4 in front of you seeking an additional appropriation of \$87,289 for cost overruns to the North Mianus parking lot construction project. I believe the memo from BOE Director of Facilities Susan Chipouras provides explanation of the various issues that caused the funding shortage.

What you also have before you is an example of what not to do. This application is an embarrassment to the BOE and is not a reflection of how projects should be run or how we will run projects in the future.

This is an example of complete human failure of a long established process. I think we all understand change orders are necessary part of a construction project. However when the change orders are not processed in a timely manner and invoices are not paid in a timely manner you have a recipe for the application before you.

The Department involved in this project has been made aware of the seriousness of their actions and has a clear understanding of the process going forward.

The last piece of information I would like to share with the committee is the work was completed and invoiced in August and September 2010. In the middle of April 2011 the contractor contacted the First Selectmen's Office regarding not being fully compensated for work. Due to the age of the invoices and the errors made by the District, I made the decision to pay the vendor out of BOE operating budget funds, after conferring with the Town Comptroller. This is not standard procedure and is definitely not the preferred course of action. The decision was made in an attempt to expedite the payment to a long-time and valued vendor to the Town and BOE.

The final chapter in this ugly saga is your approval of the additional appropriation. I understand the limitations on the capital funds- for your reference there is a memo included in your packet highlighting various budget savings in other capital accounts that can offset this additional appropriation mitigating the impact to the fund balance in the capital accounts.


I will be happy to answer any of your questions. Thank you.

From:  **Ben Branyan**

Friday, April 15, 2011 10:42:45 AM



Subject: Re: Fw: Fred Durante - North Mianus School Parking lot project - final payment \$8

To:  Peter Mynarski <Peter.Mynarski@greenwichct.org>

Cc:  Sidney Freund  Robert Lichtenfeld  Susan Chipouras

Good Morning Peter,

Thanks for the information. I have submitted four (4) invoices totaling \$68,766.73.

The invoices are charged to a BOE's General Fund operating account.

Angie has spoken with Roy that a check can be cut today. I have notified the vendor that payment is available for pick-up after 3p today.

Susan is in the process of reviewing Capital accounts to find project savings.

I will submit paperwork for BET action in May.

I understand the transfer issue. My intention is to show project savings that will mitigate the additional appropriation request.

Thanks for your help on this.

Ben

Benjamin Branyan
School Business Administrator

Greenwich Public Schools
290 Greenwich Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
Office (203) 625-7429
Fax (203) 625-7677

MISSION OF GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS' BUSINESS OFFICE

The Greenwich Public Schools' Business Office contributes to the success of our high performing school system by ensuring supportive and effective assistance in day-to-day functions enabling staff and students to concentrate on fulfilling the Mission, Values, Beliefs, and Vision of the Graduate.

Peter Mynarski <Peter.Mynarski@greenwichct.org> writes:

Ben, Susan and Sid

One change to my email below. You can not transfer capital project funds, you would need a supplemental appropriation and go to the BET in May and RTM in June.

Pete

----- Forwarded by Peter Mynarski/GOV/GreenwichCT on 04/15/2011 08:59 AM

Peter
Mynarski/GOV/Gree
nwichCT To
Ben Branyan, Sidney Freund, Susan
04/15/2011 08:56 Chipouras
AM cc
swalko@ibolaw.com, Peter
Tesei/GOV/GreenwichCT@GreenwichCT,
Roland
Gieger/GOV/GreenwichCT@GreenwichCT,
Roy
Carey/GOV/GreenwichCT@GreenwichCT,
michaelmason02@yahoo.com@GreenwichC
T, lbsimon@verizon.net@GreenwichCT
Subject
Fw: Fred Durante - North Mianus
School Parking lot project - final
payment \$8

Good Morning Ben, Sid and Susan

I can not get the authorization from the BET to pay bills before an appropriation/transfer of funds. You have two options. You can request BET transfers at their May 10th and 12th meetings and have a check ready on May 13th, if approved. However, you should speak with Mr. Durante to determine if this is ok. The second option would be to pay for it out of operating funds. I can seek the unofficial approval of the BET leaders included in this email to pay for these unauthorized expenditures from existing funds and then come to the BET in May to replenish the accounts with transfers.

Pete

----- Forwarded by Peter Mynarski/GOV/GreenwichCT on 04/15/2011 08:18 AM

"Ben Branyan"
<Ben_Branyan@gree
nwich.k12.ct.us> To
"Peter Mynarski"
04/14/2011 08:20 <Peter.Mynarski@greenwichct.org>
AM cc
"Roy Carey"
<Roy.Carey@greenwichct.org>
Subject

Re: Fw: Fred Durante - North Mianus
School Parking lot project - final
payment \$8

Good Morning Peter,

Roy called me this morning regarding this issue.
The capital account currently does not have enough money to pay the
outstanding invoices.

Susan Chipouras is reviewing savings in other capital accounts to propose
budget transfers to cover deficit.
This of course will have to go before BET, therefore earliest it can
happen is May.

Let me know if the Town would want us to process the invoices for payments
before BET approval of budget transfers.

Thanks,

Ben

Benjamin Branyan
School Business Administrator

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Greenwich, CT 06830
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Fax (203) 625-7677

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concentrate on fulfilling the Mission, Values, Beliefs, and Vision of the
Graduate.

Peter Mynarski <Peter.Mynarski@greenwichct.org> writes:

>
>Good Morning Roy and Mary
>
>Can you call Ben and Angie to help Mr. Durante get paid.

>Thanks

>Pete

>----- Forwarded by Peter Mynarski/GOV/GreenwichCT on 04/14/2011 07:03 AM

>-----

>Peter

>Tesei/GOV/Greenwich

>chCT

>To

>andersonstevenb@gmail.com

>04/13/2011 05:44

>cc

>PM "Dustin Anderson"

><Dustin.Anderson@greenwichct.org>,

>fdurante@duranteinc.com, "John

>Crary"

><John.Crary@greenwichct.org>,

>"Peter Mynarski"

><Peter.Mynarski@greenwichct.org>,

>"Sid Freund"

><sidney_freund@greenwich.k12.ct.us>

>Subject

>Re: Fred Durante - North Mianus

>School Parking lot project - final

>payment \$85,000(Document link:

>Peter Mynarski)

> Steve,

> Thank you.

> Peter J. Tesei

> First Selectman

> Town of Greenwich

> (Phone) (203) 622-7710

> (Fax) (203) 622-3793

> andersonstevenb@g

> mail.com

> To

> 04/13/2011 05:38 "Peter Tesei"

> PM <peter.tesei@greenwichct.org>,

> "Sid
> Freund"

> <sidney_freund@greenwich.k12.ct.us>

> Please respond to

> cc

> andersonstevenb@g "Peter Mynarski"

> mail.com <Peter.Mynarski@greenwichct.org>,

> "John Crary"

> <John.Crary@greenwichct.org>,

> "Dustin Anderson"

> <Dustin.Anderson@greenwichct.org>,

> fdurante@duranteinc.com

> Subject

> Re: Fred Durante - North Mianus

> School Parking lot project - final

> payment \$85,000

> Hi Peter,

> Sid is at an educational conference until tomorrow afternoon. I'll
> contact Bob L. in the morning for details and timeline.

> Steve

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Peter Tesei

> To: Sid Freund

> To: Steve Anderson

> Cc: Peter Mynarski

> Cc: John Crary

> Cc: Dustin Anderson

> Cc: fdurante@duranteinc.com

> Subject: Fred Durante - North Mianus School Parking lot project - final

> payment \$85,000

> Sent: Apr 13, 2011 5:21 PM

> Town of Greenwich

> Office of the First Selectman

> April 13, 2011

> Sid/Steve

> Fred Durante called me today and advised he has not been fully compensated
> for the work his construction firm completed at the North Mianus School
> Parking lot. He has been working through the Administrative Staff of the
> Schools and is not satisfied with the lack of sense of urgency and
> response
> to his request for payment. Please advise Fred Durante - through email -
> as

>to timeline for full payment.

>

>Thank you,

>

>

>

>Peter J. Tesei

>First Selectman

>Town of Greenwich

>(Phone) (203) 622-7710

>(Fax) (203) 622-3793

>

>

>

>Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

>